



Russia and Putin

Center for Slavic and East
European Studies



Russia under Putin



- Background
- Putin
- Medvedev
- Georgia and beyond...





Russian History

- Romanovs
- Soviets
- Tradition of strong rulers





Soviet Collapse

- Gorbachev
- Organized Crime
- Afghanistan
- Reagan
- Coup attempt



Russia's Collapse

- Yeltsin's Kleptocracy
- Chechnya
- Election Fraud?
- Crisis 1998





Popularity Ratings

May 2008 UNIAN Poll conducted by the
All-Russian Center for Public Opinion Studies

Most Popular Leaders

Putin (80%)
Brezhnev (41%)
Lenin (33%)
Stalin (31%)
Nikolai II (31%)
Khrushchev (29%)
Gorbachev (17%)
Yeltsin (17%)

Least Popular Leaders

Yelstin (64%)
Gorbachev (63%)
Stalin (42%)
Khrushchev (41%)
Lenin (35%)
Brezhnev (35%)



The Putin Era

- Surprise start (Happy New Year!)
- First Decree – Thanks Boris...
- Election
- Consolidation of Power
- Terrorist Attacks and Chechnya
- Rise of Gazprom, Lukoil...
- War on Terror





Sign of things to come

- Kursk ('00)
- Dubrovka ('02) and Beslan ('04)
- Media repression



Casualties

Kursk

118 sailors

Dubrovka

39+ terrorists

129 civilians

Beslan

334 civilians

(186 children)



Reporters Without Borders 2008 Rankings for Media Freedom

Russia 141st (out of 173 countries)

Belarus 154th

Turkmenistan 171st

North Korea 172nd



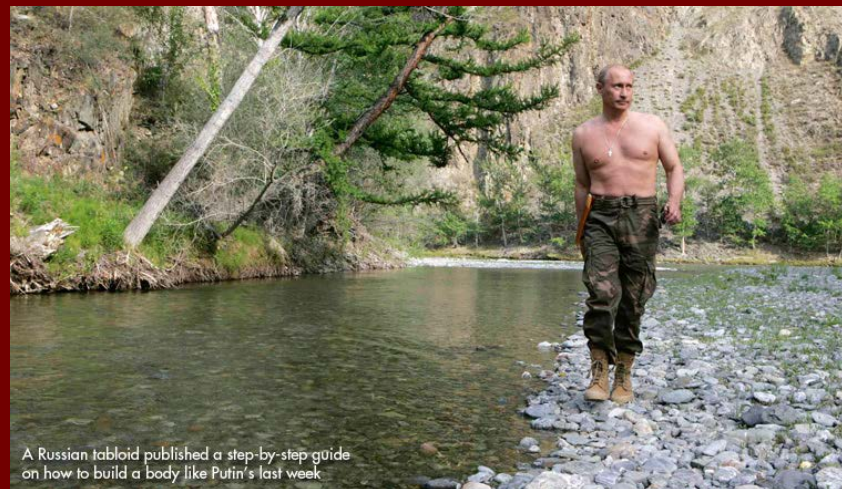
Sign of things to come

- Yukos
- Competition
- Do we need elections?
- Nashi





Cult of Putin





A new chill?

- Serbia/Kosovo
- Energy as a weapon
- Venezuela
- Iran
- China



Russian Arms Sales
2008

8 Billion+ US\$ (24%)

China

India

Venezuela

Algeria

Iran



Ukraine goes Orange

- Kuchma Legacy
- Yanukovich vs. Yushchenko
- Orange Revolution
- Oil issues





Operation Estonia

- Relocation of War Memorial (April 2007)
- Language Policy
- Russians Abroad
- Demonstrations (1,000+ arrested, 1 killed)
- Cyber Attacks
- Irony of Ximki Monument





Georgian Crisis

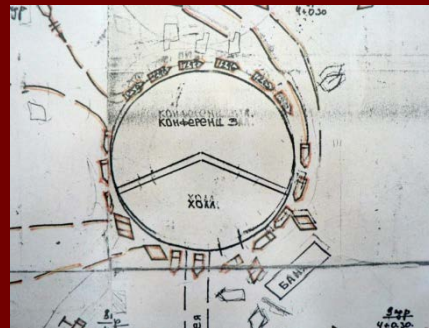
- Georgia
 - Abkhazia and South Ossetia
 - Response to aggression or pre-meditated attack?
 - NATO expansion





Déjà vu?

- Gorbachev and Putin
- Georgia ('89) and the Baltics ('91)





Military Expansion

- Resumed flight and naval exercises
- Shanghai Cooperative Organization
- CIS Collective Security Treaty Organization
 - To address "Creeping Expansion of Mysterious and Unpredictable China" and "Concerns about Aggressive Policies of the United States in the Region"





Next Hot Spots...

- Ukraine
 - Crimea/Sevastopol
 - Tymoshenko switch and new elections
- Moldova
 - Transdniester
- Belarus
 - Lukashenka
- Central Asia
- Arctic





Issues on the horizon...

- Economic woes (Oil, Infrastructure, No dollars for you!)
- European Missile Shield – Poland, Czech Republic
- Influence in "Near Abroad"
- President-elect Obama
- Winter Olympics 2014





Putin as Prime Minister

- Medvedev
- Election rules
- Dual power
- New Presidential term
- Putin in 2012 (or sooner...)
- Personal wealth at risk





Questions?

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